

tion as it had in the committee. This prediction was fulfilled literally. At the first session formal protest was made by the Roosevelt leaders against allowing seventy-four delegates, whose seats had been contested and whose names had been placed on the temporary roll of the convention, to vote in the election of temporary chairman, since by so doing each would be voting upon his own right to a seat.

In making the protest Governor Hadley of Missouri placed very clearly before the convention the real issue involved, which was simply whether the convention itself or the National Committee was to nominate the candidate for the presidency. He said:

"Were this question simply one of principle I would have no doubt what the decision would be; because upon a question of principle, if it is within the power of the thirty-seven men to say who shall constitute the majority of a convention, then we have ceased to recognize the principle of representative government in this country in the conduct of the Republican party. We have but one form of government in this country, and that is government by political parties, and if the decisions of parties in convention can be finally controlled by those who make up the temporary roll, then we have established within a political organization a political oligarchy with power to make candidates and to defeat candidates; with power to pass laws and to veto laws."

This protest was in complete accord with

the one that  
Colonel Roosevelt, as recorded in Chapter V,  
Vol. I of this  
history, made in the Republican Convention of  
1884, the  
first such convention he ever attended.

His protest in 1884, like that of Governor  
Hadley in 1912,  
was aimed at the assumption that a National  
Committee,  
under the control of men who were not  
delegates in the con-  
vention, should dictate the convention's action  
in utter  
disregard of the principles of representative  
government